Govenrment is committed to encouraging medical research activities by the Indian Council of Medical Research. An amount of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed during the XIth Five Year Plan in order to give an impetus to research activities of ICMR including augmentation of its human resource, modernization of infrastructure, improvement of career prospects for the staff of ICMR and other related issues.

Artificial health valve

4053. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether improved version of India's first artificial heart valve "Citra" has ben devised;

(b) if so, the approximae cost thereof; and

(c) the action taken to produce it on large scale to help poor heart patients needing artificial valve implantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) an improved version of India's heart valve, the TTK-Citra Valve is at an advanced stage of development and testing under a collaborative project between Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvanthapuram and TTK Halthcare Ltd., Chennai with the financial support of DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology under their PASTER Scheme. The new version is expected to enter the clinicial evaluation phase during the last quarter of 2007. The manufactured price of the new model is expected to be the same as the present model. TTK Healthcare Ltd. has set up a new plant in Thiruvanthapuram with increased capacity to take care of the requirement.

Non-availability of doctors in CGHS Dispensary

4054. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no ayurveda doctor available at CGHS Dispensary No. 73 since December, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when doctors are likely to be posted there; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Since the superannuation of last incumbent on 31.1.2007, one Ayurvedic doctor has been posted to Ayurvedic Unit, Gurgaon but till date he has not reported for duty.

Infrastructure development for Bihar

†4035. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities which should be provided at village level under National Rural Health Mission;

(b) the efforts being made to strengthen basic infrastructure of primary health centres;

(c) the arrangement being made for deployment of women doctors; and

(d) the amount sanctioned under the said scheme to the State of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) (i) Under the National Rural Health Mission a trained female community health worker —ASHA—is being provided in each village in the ratio of one per 1000 population. ASHAs would reinforce community action for universal immunization, safe delivery, newborn care, prevention of water-borne and other communicable diseases, nutrition and sanitation. She will also help the villagers promote preventive health by converging activities of nutrition, education, drinking water, sanitation etc. ASHAs would also provide immediate and easy access for the rural population to essential health supplies like ORS, contraceptives, a set of ten basic drugs and she would have a health communication kit and other IEC materials developed for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.